

## AMENDMENT

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for rendering a graphical user interface (GUI), comprising:

providing for a representation of the GUI as a set of controls wherein the controls are organized in a logical hierarchy;

traversing the representation, wherein the traversing comprises:

associating a theme with a first control in the set of controls, ~~the first control being a portal, a page or a portlet;~~

rendering the first control according to the theme;

rendering any descendants of the first control according to the theme unless the theme is overridden;

wherein a descendent of the first control can override the theme with a second theme such that any descendent of the descendent of the first control uses the second theme unless the second theme is overridden; [[and]]

wherein one of the set of controls can communicate with another of the set of controls; and

wherein the logical hierarchy for the controls includes a portal control used to render a portal, a portlet control used to render a portlet and a page control used to render a page.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:

one of the set of controls can respond to an event raised by another of the set of controls.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:

a control can have an interchangeable persistence mechanism.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:

a control can have an interchangeable rendering mechanism.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
accepting a request.
  
6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein:  
the request in a hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) request.
  
7. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein:  
the request originates from a Web browser.
  
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
generating a response.
  
9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:  
an control can represent one of: button, text field, menu, table, window, window control, title bar, pop-up window, check-box button, radio button, window frame, desktop, shell, head, body, header, footer, book, page, layout, placeholder, portlet and toggle button.
  
10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:  
associating the theme with the first control can occur when the first control is rendered.
  
11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:  
the first control inherits the theme from a parent control.
  
12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:  
the theme specifies the appearance and/or functioning of an control in the GUI.
  
13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:  
rendering the first control according to the theme can be accomplished in parallel with rendering of other controls.
  
14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:  
the theme can be specified in whole or in part by a properties file.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein:  
the properties file can include at least one of: 1) cascading style sheet; 2) Java Server Page; 3) Extensible Markup Language; 4) text; 5) Hypertext Markup Language; 6) Extensible Hypertext Markup Language; 7) JavaScript; and 8) Flash MX.
16. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein:  
the properties file can specify at least one image.
17. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:  
the GUI is part of a portal on the World Wide Web.
18. (Currently Amended) A method for rendering a graphical user interface (GUI), comprising:
  - accepting a request;
  - mapping the request to a set of controls that represent the GUI, and wherein the controls are organized in a logical hierarchy;
  - traversing the representation, wherein the traversing comprises:
    - associating a theme with a first control in the set of controls, ~~the first control being a portal, a page or a portlet;~~
    - rendering the first control according to the theme unless the theme is overridden;
    - rendering any descendants of the first control according to the theme; [[and]] wherein a descendent of the first control can override the theme with a second theme such that any descendent of the descendent of the first control uses the second theme unless the second theme is overridden; and  
wherein the logical hierarchy for the controls includes a portal control used to render a portal, a portlet control used to render a portlet and a page control used to render a page.
19. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein:  
the request in a hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) request.
20. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein:  
the request originates from a Web browser.

21. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising:  
generating a response.
22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 wherein:  
one of the set of controls can respond to an event raised by another of the set of controls.
23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 wherein:  
a control can have an interchangeable persistence mechanism.
24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 wherein:  
a control can have an interchangeable rendering mechanism.
25. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein:  
an control can represent one of: button, text field, menu, table, window, window control, title bar, pop-up window, check-box button, radio button, window frame, desktop, shell, head, body, header, footer, book, page, layout, placeholder, portlet and toggle button.
26. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein:  
associating a theme with the first control can occur when the first control is rendered.
27. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein:  
the first control inherits the theme from a parent control.
28. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein:  
the theme specifies the appearance and/or functioning of an control in the GUI.
29. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein:  
rendering the first control according to the theme can be accomplished in parallel with rendering of other controls.
30. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein:  
the theme can be specified in whole or in part by a properties file.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30 wherein:  
the properties file can include at least one of: 1) cascading style sheet; 2) Java Server Page; 3) Extensible Markup Language; 4) text; 5) Hypertext Markup Language; 6) Extensible Hypertext Markup Language; 7) JavaScript; and 8) Flash MX.

32. (Original) The method of claim 30 wherein:  
the properties file can specify at least one image.

33. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein:  
the GUI is part of a portal on the World Wide Web.

34. (Currently Amended) A method for rendering a graphical user interface (GUI), comprising:

Providing for a representation of the GUI as a plurality of controls wherein the controls are organized in a logical hierarchy;

traversing the representation, wherein the traversing comprises:

associating a first theme with a first control in the plurality of controls, ~~the first control being a portal, a page or a portlet;~~

rendering the first control according to the first theme;

associating a second theme with a second control in the plurality of controls;

rendering the second control according to the second theme, such that any descendent of the second control uses the second theme unless overridden; [[and]]

wherein the second control is a descendant of the first control; and

wherein the logical hierarchy for the controls includes a portal control used to render a portal, a portlet control used to render a portlet and a page control used to render a page.

35. (Original) The method of claim 34, further comprising:  
accepting a request.

36. (Original) The method of claim 35 wherein:  
the request in a hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) request.

37. (Original) The method of claim 35 wherein:  
the request originates from a Web browser.

38. (Original) The method of claim 34, further comprising:  
generating a response.
39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34 wherein:  
the first control can respond to an event raised by the second control.
40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34 wherein:  
an control can have an interchangeable persistence mechanism.
41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34 wherein:  
an control can have an interchangeable rendering mechanism.
42. (Original) The method of claim 34 wherein:  
an control can represent one of: button, text field, menu, table, window, window control, title bar, pop-up window, check-box button, radio button, window frame, desktop, shell, head, body, header, footer, book, page, layout, placeholder, portlet and toggle button.
43. (Original) The method of claim 34 wherein:  
the first control inherits the first theme from a parent control.
44. (Original) The method of claim 34 wherein:  
the first theme specifies the appearance and/or functioning of the first control in the GUI.
45. (Original) The method of claim 34 wherein:  
the rendering the first control can be accomplished in parallel with the rendering of the second control.
46. (Original) The method of claim 34 wherein:  
a theme can be specified in whole or in part by a properties file.
47. (Original) The method of claim 46 wherein:

the properties file can include at least one of: 1) cascading style sheet; 2) Java Server Page; 3) Extensible Markup Language; 4) text; 5) Hypertext Markup Language; 6) Extensible Hypertext Markup Language; 7) JavaScript; and 8) Flash MX.

48. (Original) The method of claim 46 wherein:  
the properties file can specify at least one image.

49. (Original) The method of claim 34 wherein:  
the GUI is part of a portal on the World Wide Web.

50. (Currently Amended) A machine readable medium having instructions stored thereon that when executed by a processor cause a system to:

provide for a representation of the GUI as a set of controls wherein the controls are organized in a logical hierarchy;

traverse the representation, wherein the traversing comprises instructions to cause the system to:

associate theme with a first control in the set of controls, ~~the first control being a portal, a page or a portlet;~~

render the first control according to the theme;

render any descendants of the first control according to the theme unless the theme is overridden;

wherein a descendent of the first control can override the theme; [[and]]

wherein one of the set of controls can communicate with another of the set of controls with a second theme such that any descendent of the descendent of the first control uses the second theme unless the second theme is overridden; and

wherein the logical hierarchy for the controls includes a portal control used to render a portal, a portlet control used to render a portlet and a page control used to render a page.

51. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 50 wherein:  
one of the set of controls can respond to an event raised by another of the set of controls.

52. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 50 wherein:  
a control can have an interchangeable persistence mechanism.

53. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 50 wherein:  
a control can have an interchangeable rendering mechanism.
54. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 50, further comprising instructions that when executed cause the system to:  
accept a request.
55. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 54 wherein:  
the request in a hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) request.
56. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 54 wherein:  
the request originates from a Web browser.
57. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 50, further comprising instructions that when executed cause the system to:  
generate a response.
58. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 50 wherein:  
an control can represent one of: button, text field, menu, table, window, window control, title bar, pop-up window, check-box button, radio button, window frame, desktop, shell, head, body, header, footer, book, page, layout, placeholder, portlet and toggle button.
59. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 50 wherein:  
associating the theme with the first control can occur when the first control is rendered.
60. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 50 wherein:  
the first control inherits the theme from a parent control.
61. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 50 wherein:  
the theme specifies the appearance and/or functioning of an control in the GUI.
62. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 50 wherein:

rendering the first control according to the theme can be accomplished in parallel with rendering of other controls.

63. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 50 wherein:  
the theme can be specified in whole or in part by a properties file.
64. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 63 wherein:  
the properties file can include at least one of: 1) cascading style sheet; 2) Java Server Page; 3) Extensible Markup Language; 4) text; 5) Hypertext Markup Language; 6) Extensible Hypertext Markup Language; 7) JavaScript; and 8) Flash MX.
65. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 63 wherein:  
the properties file can specify at least one image.
66. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 50 wherein:  
the GUI is part of a portal on the World Wide Web.
67. (Canceled)